

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: XV, TPHY, AR, GW

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY: RESPONSE TO ARGENTINA NOTIFICATION OF ROCKET LAUNCH FROM ANTARCTICA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6821; STATE 253041

1. FOLLOWING ARE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS FOR EMBASSY NOTE TO ARGENTINA MFA IN RESPONSE TO BELATED NOTIFICATION UNDER ANTARCTIC TREATY PROVISIONS OF ARGENTINA ROCKET LAUNCH FROM MARAMBIO. FOR USE IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OVERRIDING OBJECTION.
2. "THE EMBASSY TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ITS REGRET THAT THE NOTIFICATION WAS DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY ON OCTOBER 10, 1975, SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ROCKET WAS LAUNCHED FROM MARAMBIO STATION IN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA. WHILE THE MINISTRY'S NOTE CONTAINED THE INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED UNDER POINT XIV OF THE PROPOSED STAN-

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MATION TO BE PROVIDED UNDER POINT XIV OF THE PROPOSED STAN-

DARD FORMAT FOR THE ANNUAL EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION (ANNEXED TO RECOMMENDATION VIII-6 OF THE EIGHTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING AND ALSO ANNEXED TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE SEVENTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING), THE RECEIPT OF THE INFORMATION A WEEK AFTER THE LAUNCH IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE NEED TO GIVE DETAILS OF EACH PLANNED LAUNCHING OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ROCKETS IN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECOMMENDATION VI-12, WHICH WAS EFFECTIVE ON OCTOBER 10, 1973 DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE ROCKET EXPERIMENT WAS COORDINATED WITH SEVERAL AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES SUCH COORDINATION DOES NOT FULFILL THE OBLIGATION UNDER RECOMMENDATION VI-12 TO PROVIDE, THROUGH THE ANNUAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION UNDER PARAGRAPH 5 OF ARTICLE VII OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY, ADVANCE INFORMATION ON PLANS TO LAUNCH ROCKETS FROM THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA. IN THE EVENT A ROCKET LAUNCH IS NOT PLANNED AT THE TIME AN ANNUAL REPORT IS TRANSMITTED IT IS IN ACCORD WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS TO GIVE TIMELY ADVANCE NOTIFICATION NONETHELESS.

FYI - ARGENTINA HAS BEEN DILATORY IN ITS ANNUAL REPORTS ON PLANNED ACTIVITIES. ITS REPORT FOR 1974-75 DID NOT COVER THE 15 POINTS IN THE RECOMMENDED FORMAT FOR ANNUAL EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION WHICH IT CITES IN ITS NOTE TO THE EMBASSY. IT IS THE USG VIEW THAT FULL AND TIMELY REPORTING IS ESSENTIAL TO THE VITALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AND THAT ADEQUATE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ROCKET FIRINGS UNDER RECOMMENDATIONS VI-12 IS A BINDING OBLIGATION. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE USG VIEW KNOWN WHEN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF. KISSINGER

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